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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 SAL-01 SAB-01 JUSE-00

SCS-03 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 H-02 INR-07 DLOS-04 PRS-01

CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00 OES-06 PA-01

USIA-06 ARAE-00 /073 W
---------- 038008
P R 281520Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7541
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PN, PQ
SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL

REF: PANAMA 2906

1. ON AFTERNOON TUESDAY, APRIL 27, MR. STEVENS OF AGENCIA WORSLEY, AGENT FOR TUNA VESSEL "VOYAGER", CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

2. STEVENS STATED THAT "VOYAGER" COMPLETED FISHING WITH FINAL SET AT POSITION 83 DEGREES 15' W 06 DEGREES 5' N, IN COSTA RICAN WATERS, AT 0940 SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1976, AND THEN SET DIRECT COURSE FOR BALBOA WITH INTENT OF TRANSITING CANAL. "VOYAGER" CAPTAIN HAD INFORMED AGENT OF THIS INTENT.

3. BETWEEN 1300 AND 1605 SUNDAY, APRIL 25, "VOYAGER" STOPPED TO WASH NETS AT POSITION 15 MILES WEST OF MONTUOSA ISLAND (NEAR COIBA ISLAND) IN PANAMA WATERS. AGENT STATED THAT WASHOUT OF NETS IS NORMAL PRACTICE FOR
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TUNA VESSEL AFTER FINAL SET AND PRIOR TO CANAL TRANSIT.

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DURING THIS PERIOD, "VOYAGER" LOG REPORTS "PHOTOGRAPHED BY PANAMANIAN PATROL PLANE".

4. "VOYAGER" ARRIVED BALBOA OUTER ANCHORAGE, CANAL ZONE WATERS, AT APPROXIMATELY 1340 MONDAY, APRIL 26, AND REPORTED THAT AFTER ARRIVING AT ANCHORAGE, SHE SIGHTED PANAMANIAN PATROL BOAT, WHICH CIRCLED "VOYAGER". AGENT REPORTS THAT "VOYAGER" AT NO TIME SIGHTED ANY PANAMANIAN PATROL BOAT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN CANAL ZONE WATERS, AND THAT SHE RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTION OR REQUEST TO HEAVE TO.

5. AGENT PROVIDED COPIES OF EXTRACT OF "VOYAGER" LOGS SHOWING ABOVE-CITED POSITIONS AND LOG ENTRIES.

6. AGENT REPORTS HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM VESSEL'S OWNER (DEL MONTE) ON APRIL 27 THAT VESSEL IS TO TRANSIT CANAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT IS TO ANCHOR AT CRISTOBAL AND NOT DEPART FROM THERE WITHOUT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM OWNER. ACCORDINGLY, "VOYAGER" IS NOW SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE CANAL TRANSIT AT APPROXIMATELY 1700 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 AND TO CLEAR GATUN LOCKS AT APPROXIMATELY 0400 APRIL 29.

7. STEVENS STATED THAT HE HAD ORDERED ENTIRE CREW OF "VOYAGER" TO REFRAIN FROM ANY STATEMENTS WHILE ON SHORE ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. HE IS ALSO CONTACTING OWNER TO REQUEST THAT LATTER INTERVENE WITH AMERICAN TUNA BOAT ASSOCIATION TO ASK THAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS INCIDENT BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

8. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC MENTION OF THIS INCIDENT IN PANAMA.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, FISHING BOATS, VOYAGER F/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA02944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0522
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaaiyv.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PANAMA 2906
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL
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